

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:00.m. Executive Session, Mr. Green called the meeting to order. Dr. Gifford made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island §42-46-5(a) (2), (a) (8) Teacher Negotiations, Student Hearing, H.Carr claim. Mrs. Records seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Susan Records, Mr. Jack Sommer, and Ms. Mark (arrived at 6:06p.m.). Mr. Clark Smith and Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters were absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also in attendance. Mr. Michael Podraza, Principal of EGHS and Mr. Christopher Cobain, Athletic Director, were in attendance for the student hearing.

7:11p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was already in session. Mr. Green announced there was one vote taken in Executive Session. The vote was 3-2 in an appeals hearing to uphold the superintendent's administrative decision with a modification.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Recognitions

Recognitions were made to students who won the following awards:

- a. R.I. Scholastic Art Awards-Cole Middle School: Fionna Chan, Erin Culf, Rebecca Freeman, and Brooke Matus**
- b. R.I. Scholastic Art Awards- EGHS: Phoebe Osterhout, Patrick Wong, Margaret McCaffry, and Catherine Streich**
- c. Geography Bee Winner-Cole Middle School: James Xu**
- d. Spelling Bee Winner-Cole Middle School: Sarah Brusini**

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular and executive for March 5, 2013**

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes for March 5, 2013.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Commissioner Gist has invited Dr. Mercurio to attend a meeting on P.I.S.A. (Program on International Student Assessment) on March 26, 2013. Five other superintendents will attend this meeting. Mrs. Hostetler and Mr. Podraza were invited to a similar meeting in

Washington, D.C. Dr. Mercurio had an opportunity to attend the Rhode Island Education Board meeting. The format is slightly different with the Board holding their meeting in school districts. Dr. Mercurio will offer East Greenwich as a host site. The superintendent's office received numerous calls from individuals' who would like to be removed from Alert Now. With the rollover to a new database, some phone numbers of graduates were not removed. Community members can either call or email the superintendent's office or the director of technology's office and their number will be removed.

VII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VIII. Action Items

a. Parental leave approval- Monica Cardi, Cole Middle School

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the parental leave.

b. School Calendar Survey 2014-2015

The Committee would like input from the community regarding the 2014-2015 school calendar. A survey will be drafted for parents, community members, and staff to gather input regarding various holidays, vacation weeks, and the start/end dates of the academic year. There was discussion regarding the religious holidays and the Committee would like to group the holidays together as one question, rather than list them separately. Mrs. Heather Tibbitts questioned having school on election days. Mr. Green explained that current state statute requires voting to be held in the schools

without students. The Committee will look into the possibility of changing the statute prior to the next election. Mrs. Tricia Colgan discussed the varying perspectives held by parents depending on their child's grade level. She explained that high school students need the breaks which provide them with time to study and work on senior project. The Committee discussed the survey questions and how the survey will be administered. Survey results will be shared with RIASC and RISSA.

c. Executive visit to China

This trip is no longer relevant and was tabled.

d. Subcommittee name change – Health and Wellness Subcommittee

Mrs. Records made an initial motion to accept the name change and charge. Mr. Sommer seconded the motion. After discussion, Mrs. Records withdrew the motion. Mrs. Records made a new motion to approve only the subcommittee name change. Ms. Mark seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

e. Health and Wellness Charge

There was discussion regarding whether the Wellness policy needs to be called the Health and Wellness Policy. There was also discussion whether the charge needs to be included in the policy. Mr. Green asked Mrs. Records to meet with the Health and Wellness Committee and submit their recommendations to the Policy Committee. The charge was tabled and will be voted on at a future meeting.

IX. Aramark School Lunch Presentation

Jessica Patroliia from Aramark was present to report on Aramark's

year to date performance. As of February 2013, Aramark is operating in the black with year to date profit under \$1,000. This is a huge accomplishment for Aramark as they overcame a deficit of over \$130,000. Ms. Patrolia gave an overview of awards, promotions, and initiatives throughout the district. Aramark is proud of the partnership with East Greenwich Schools. Mrs. Records thanked Ms. Patrolia for her help and assistance with the Health and Wellness Committee. There was discussion regarding alerts with My School Bucks. Ms. Patrolia said the transition from Nutrikids to My School Bucks had some glitches which are being fixed. Parents' will need to reset the alert under My School Bucks. This information will be sent to parents via the district list serv.

X. Subcommittee Reports

a. Policy Committee

Dr. Gifford reported that the Policy Committee met on March 15, 2013. The Committee discussed drafting a policy for digital devices.

Mrs. Page, Mr. Podraza, Mr. Zambrano and Mr. Jett were present for the discussion. The fundraising policy needs an additional piece and will be ready for a first read. Mrs. Tibbitts, Hanaford PTG President, asked if the PTG can have input in this policy. The Committee will let the PTG presidents know when the policy is scheduled for a first read.

b. Health and Wellness Committee

Mrs. Records has held meetings at Eldredge and Hanaford with building principals' to identify health and wellness activities. The next meetings will be held at Frenchtown and Meadowbrook.

District activities are being published on the district website. Mrs. Records said the committee is also working on mental health and physical activity. A physical education teacher should be present for discussions surrounding physical activity.

c. Building Committee

Mr. Sommer reported that the Building Committee met today and regrouped. An updated repair and maintenance report will be requested from Mr. Wilmarth. The committee will meet again in a month and discuss long-term planning.

XI. Financial Update

Mrs. Crawford provided a cumulative financial statement for FY2013 through February 2013. The dental cumulative fund balance shows a significant surplus of over \$28,000. The health cumulative fund balance currently shows a deficit of \$9,034 which is a significant reduction from previous months. Mrs. Crawford spoke with WB Health and noted the district may see a reduction of 2-3%, but she won't know until mid-April. Mrs. Crawford said the next goal is establishing a comprehensive wellness program. Principals' are wrapping up expenditures for year-end and she does not expect any issues. Fixed costs remain steady and out of district tuitions may be slightly less than anticipated. The district needs to pay for the SRO officer which was not budgeted.

XII. Discussion

a. School Calendar 2013-2014

This item was discussed at the previous meeting on March 5, 2013. There was no further discussion. On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which

was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the school calendar for the 2013-2014 school year.

XIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Ms. Mark, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:15p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY